

AMERICAN DRAGON
"The Talented Mr. Long"
(7W14 D 108)

TEASER:

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON TARANUSHI'S CHALICE - GLIMMERING IN THE MOONLIGHT.
It's a slightly tarnished golden goblet, with handles on either side. A hand reaches in to grab it when a heavy CLUB knocks the hand away.

1 NARRATOR (V.O.)
Taranushi's Chalice. For thousands of centuries man and magical beast alike have fought to posses it.

WIDEN - as TWO CAVEMEN wrestle over the chalice. Suddenly a BURST of FIRE from O.S. shoots at the chalice, causing both cavemen to DROP it.

WIDEN FURTHER - to REVEAL a SHADOWY DARK DRAGON, who blows another burst of fire at the cavemen, then swoops in, grabs the chalice and flies away. The cavemen look down at the burning ground below them, amazed. As they begin to dance around the fire excitedly we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANCIENT BATTLEFIELD - DAY

ON THE DRAGON - as he flies through the sky carrying the chalice, suddenly he's struck by LIGHTENING.
He drops the chalice and we track with it as it falls...

2 NARRATOR (V.O.)
Countless lives have been lost in the quest to control the powers locked within in.

...INTO THE HANDS of an EVIL LOOKING DARK KNIGHT.

WIDEN - as the KNIGHT holds up the chalice, suddenly, A DOZEN OTHER KNIGHTS (who don't look as evil) RISE UP OVER A HILLSIDE and charge at him.

As a fierce battle rages, the chalice is knocked into a RAGING RIVER...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The RAGING RIVER turns into a CRESTING WAVE that crashes against the side of a BOAT.

ON THE BOAT - as a CAPTAIN sits on deck, polishing the CHALICE. Suddenly an EXPLOSION RINGS OUT and we WIDEN to see the that ship is under siege from PIRATES.

3 NARRATOR (V.O.)
Through fires, floods and famine
the chalice has survived.

THE CAPTAIN grabs the chalice and DIVES overboard, only to be hit by a violent wave. The captain loses his grip on the chalice.

ON THE OCEAN FLOOR - as the chalice sinks ominously to the bottom of the ocean. A MERMAID swims up, grabbing the chalice.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW ENGLAND DOCKS - DAY

A FISHING CREW dumps their net out on the docks. Nestled within the pile of slippery FISH is the CHALICE.

A CREW MAN picks up the Chalice and surreptitiously tucks it

into his coat pocket...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FACTORY - NIGHT

The CREW MAN pulls the CHALICE out of his coat pocket.

WIDEN TO REVEAL that he stands in a shadowy old factory. A GOBLIN wearing a trenchcoat and a fedora stands next to him.

4 NARRATOR/CREW MAN
And now, finally, for a small fee,
it can be yours...

5 GOBLIN
Cut the dramatics, see! I'm not
here for a bedtime story, I'm here
for the goods!

The Goblin lunges at the Crew Man, causing the Chalice to fly out of his hands. As the Crew Man and the Goblin wrestle on the floor, we TRACK with the chalice as it flies through the factory...

LANDING on the factory conveyor belt between two other generic looking trophies.

The Goblin and the Crewman stand.

6 GOBLIN
The chalice! Where is it? Where
is it?!

WIDEN - the factory is a virtual maze of trophies that all look exactly like the Chalice.

7 GOBLIN
You fool! It's lost forever!

CLOSE ON THE CHALICE (slightly more tarnished and elaborate than the other trophies.) As the chalice rides the belt along with the other cups, it's stamped 'FIRST PRIZE.'

The CHALICE then rolls off the conveyor belt into a passing

PACKING BOX.

ON A LOADING DOCK - as a WORKER throws a final box on a DELIVERY TRUCK and PULLS DOWN the truck door. The TRUCK drives away...

8 SPUD (V.O.)
Forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAKE'S SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY
CLOSE ON the Chalice in a place of honor in the SCHOOL TROPHY CASE.

9 SPUD
I've been waiting forever for
Principal Derceto to announce the
school talent show.

WIDEN TO REVEAL SPUD, TRIXIE and JAKE staring at the chalice.

10 TRIXIE
Here we go again.

11 SPUD
This is my year, Trix. I can feel
it.

12 JAKE
Um, Spud. You say that every year.

13 SPUD
But this time, I'm gonna do it.
This year's trophy is the nicest
one yet!

The kids exit, to REVEAL PROFESSOR ROTWOOD lurking in the shadows behind them.

ANGLE OVER ROTWOOD'S SHOULDER - he holds up a book with a picture of a MAGICAL CHALICE. The picture matches the trophy.

14 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
It can't be... but it is... Ohhhh
You will be mine!! .

WIDEN TO REVEAL that passing students have stopped to stare at Professor Rotwood. He awkwardly and slams the book shut, straitening his tie and walking away.

15 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
As you were...

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE

ACT I

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY (LOCKERS) - DAY

Trixie and Jake stand by as Spud digs through his locker.

16 SPUD
Okay, I know it's in here
somewhere...

He tosses out an umbrella, an inflatable water floatie ring with a giraffe head on it, a pair of red sequined cowboy boots until...

17 SPUD
A-hah! Or should I say...

He puts on a top hat and a cape.

18 SPUD
Voila! Spud-the-Spudnificent,
magician extraordinare, ready for
action.

19 TRIXIE
Yo, Spud, I'm thinking maybe this
talent show business ain't such a
good idea.

20 JAKE
Trixie's got a point. I mean,
remember last year?

SWISH PAN TO:

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - FLASHBACK

Spud stands on stage in his cape and top hat.

He reaches into the sleeve of his cape (draped over his arm) and pulls out... his entire outfit out from the "sleeve" of his cape. (He is now wearing just a cape, a top hat and BOXER SHORTS.)

21 TRIXIE (V.O.)
And the year before that...

REWIND TO:

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - FLASHBACK

A younger Spud stands on stage (in each flashback, Spud is smaller, but the top hat and cape stay the same size.)
Spud takes off his top hat. He taps it with a magic wand... reaches his hand in... and gets it stuck in the hat.
Spud tugs at his hand with his free hand. As he SLAMS the hat against the table repeatedly a flock of DOVES fly out from under the table, sending SPUD running screaming off stage.

22 JAKE (V.O.)
And the year before that...

REWIND TO:

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - FLASHBACK

A terrified (and somewhat younger looking) TRIXIE stands against a wall with an apple on her head.
WIDEN, as Spud picks up a hatchet from a table across the stage and aims it at Trixie...

SWISH PAN TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - BACK TO PRESENT

Trixie rubs her forehead, disturbed.

23 SPUD
At least the hatchets were made of rubber.

24 TRIXIE
Trust me, homeboy. Rubber don't make the nightmares go away.

25 SPUD

Forget the hatchets. This is
about a dream, man! My great
grandfather was a magician, and he
taught me never to give up.

26 TRIXIE

Too bad he didn't teach you any
magic.

27 SPUD

I'll never forget his catch phrase.
Words of immense magical power:
"Abigo -ere -egi -actum!"

28 JAKE

What the heck does that mean?

29 SPUD

I dunno. That was always about
when he was laughed off the stage.
That's why I've been trying to win
this thing all these years. For
Super Gramps. And also, 'cause the
trophies are always so shiny.

30 JAKE

You really want to win this thing,
huh?

31 SPUD

More than I want air to breath...
well, you know except for the part
where I suffocate without it.

Spud and Trixie exchange a glance, then...

32 JAKE

Okay, we're in.

33 SPUD

What?

34 TRIXIE

Spud-the-Spudnificent just got
himself two lovely assistants.
We're gonna help you win this
thing.

35 SPUD

You mean it?!?!

Spud throws his arms around Trixie and Jake.

36 SPUD
You two are the best friends in the whole world!

Jake puts an arm around Spud as the three continue down the hallway.

37 JAKE
We are so on this thing, bro. That trophy is as good as yours.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL @ NIGHT

CLOSE ON THE TROPHY in the trophy case.

IN THE SHADOWS @ a gloved hand reaches towards the case, trying to use a crowbar to jimmy the lock.

38 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (O.S.)
Wednesday. Eleven p.m. Quest to prove existence of magical creatures.

WIDEN TO REVEAL PROFESSOR ROTWOOD, dressed in his best cat burglar black (including a ski mask), speaking into a SMALL HANDHELD TAPE RECORDER.

39 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Have learned that Taranushi's Chalice has ended up as the first prize in the school talent show.

The trophy case swings open. The CHALICE glistens seductively.

40 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
The chalice contains a magical creature that I plan to unleash, thus proving for once and for all that...

Suddenly an ALARM goes off.

A FLASHLIGHT shines in Professor Rotwood's face.

41 POLICE OFFICER #1 (O.S.)
You there! Hands in the air!

WIDEN TO REVEAL TWO POLICE OFFICERS hovering over Professor Rotwood. Professor Rotwood grabs blindly for the trophy and makes a run for it.

The SECURITY GUARD gives chase

UP ANGLE in a STAIRWELL - as Professor Rotwood enters the stairwell, jumping down several steps at a time, the Police Officers close on his heals.

ANGLE IN A HALLWAY - as ROTWOOD bursts out of the stairwell, and slides to a stop at a water fountain.

He quickly puts the chalice under the water fountain flow.
As it starts to fill, the officers approach.

42 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
You're my witnesses. When the chalice runneth over with water, the creature shall be released and all my research will be proven true!

A beat... as the chalice indeed runneth over... and nothing happens.

The Police Officers exchange a glance.

43 POLICE OFFICER # 2
Looks like we got another one for Bellview.

Professor Rotwood takes at the trophy, confused.

CLOSE ON THE TROPHY - clearly NOT Taranushi's Chalice. It reads 'STATE FINALIST - Chess Club!"

44 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
CHESS CLUB!? This is the wrong trophy! Taranushi's chalice is the talent show trophy!

As the Police Officers approach him, Rotwood throws the

trophy at them, splashing them both with water.

45 POLICE OFFICER #1/POLICE
OFFICER #2

Ahhhh!

As the officers wipe their faces, Rotwood disappears into the night.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Jake, Trixie and Spud walk down the hallway. Spud pulls out a deck of cards, fanning out the deck.

46 SPUD

Okay, I've been working on this one for the show. Pick a card, any card...

CLOSE ON THE DECK - as Spud clearly forces the 6 of clubs towards Trixie.

Trixie reaches for a DIFFERENT CARD. Spud tries to maneuver the deck to force her to pick the six. She still doesn't pick it.

47 SPUD

Any... card... (then) Okay, not that card.

Just then, Trixie, Spud and Jake pass the now empty trophy case, which is being boarded up. PRINCIPAL DERCETO, a stern but likable woman, sits in her WHEELCHAIR, talking to the POLICE OFFICERS.

Jake takes, curious. He lingers back as Trixie and Spud continue down the hallway.

48 SPUD

I can't do the trick if you keep picking the wrong card!

ON JAKE - as he morphs into his dragon ear to listen...

49 JAKE
Ear of the dragon...

ON DERCETO and the Police Officers.

50 POLICE OFFICER #1
I wish I could tell you more,
Principal. The perp escaped on
foot before we could question him
further.

51 POLICE OFFICER #2
He was ranting about the talent
show trophy like a madman.

52 POLICE OFFICER #1
Luckily, he didn't manage to steal
anything.

Principal Derceto shakes her head.

53 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
Vandals. From now on I'll
be storing the school trophies
somewhere safe.

JAKE - morphs back to his regular ear and walks away,
curious.

54 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (V.O.)
Which leads us to conclude that
magical creatures are indeed among
us.

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S CLASSROOM ♫ DAY

Professor Rotwood stands in front of his bored class,
lecturing on. As he talks, he begins to drift off to
sleep...

55 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
But, never you fear. I will search
out these creatures day and
night...

(MORE)

55 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)
Well, only night actually, since
I've been forced to take this day
job. But rest assured- rest
assured...

rest... ah, rest. ...

Jake, Trixie and Spud exchange a glance.

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD himself back awake.

BRAD - elbows a CLASSMATE, .

56 BRAD
I've never had a teacher so boring
he puts himself to sleep.

Brad bumps fist with his classmate joyously. Suddenly
He looks up to see Professor Rotwood SLAMMING his
hand son his desk, leaning towards him menacingly.

57 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Ohhh, so we have a comedian on our
hands. Here's a joke for you,
Mister Haha. Knock Knock. Who's
There? YOU'RE FAILING MY CLASS!

Brad's smile drops.

58 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
And per school rules, any student
who fails a class, even the star
quarterback, loses his football
eligibility. Hilarious, isn't it?

The . Professor Rotwood exits the classroom.

59 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Class dismissed.

ON SPUD, TRIXIE and JAKE as they gather their books.

60 SPUD
Alright, here's another one I've
been practicing: the old
tablecloth trick... You know,
except without the tablecloth... or
the dishes... Or like silverware...

Spud reaches for Professor Rotwood's desk blotter. On top of
the blotter are several books, stacks of papers and a full

coffee cup.

After a few dramatic flourishes with his hands, he grabs the blotter, and yanks it out from under the contents of Rotwood's desk... unsuccessfully... The contents of Rotwood's desk go flying.

Trixie and Jake hurry to put Professor Rotwood's desk in order.

61 TRIXIE
Yo, getting us busted with Rotwood
is no kinda talent, you hear me?

As Jake picks up a book, he notices that it's open to a dog eared page.

62 TRIXIE
Jakey, you coming?

63 JAKE
Uh... I'll catch up with you guys
later.

As Trixie and Spud exit, Jake looks down at the book again.
CLOSE ON THE PAGE: A picture of the talent show trophy with the words "TARANUSHI'S CHALICE" under it.

64 GRANDPA (V.O.)
Taranushi's chalice.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - LATER

PULL OUT TO REVEAL we are in Grandpa's shop. Jake stands before a worried looking Fu Dog and Grandpa. The book is open in front of them.

65 GRANDPA
(reading)
...created two million years ago by
a tribe of nomadic elves...

Suddenly Grandpa knocks the book off the desk.

66 GRANDPA
Trash! What is this trash?

67 JAKE
So, the talent show trophy isn't
some ancient chalice?

68 GRANDPA
No, it is. But everyone knows that
Taranushi's Chalice was created by
goblins, not elves.

Grandpa pulls out a dusty, ancient SCROLL from his shelves.
He unfurls it...

A picture of Taranushi's Chalice is projected out of the
scroll.

69 GRANDPA
Taranushi's chalice has an evil
Djinn imprisoned within it.

Grandpa unfurls the scroll further. An image of a DJINN
appears. The Djinn is ferocious fire-based monster,
surrounded in wispy, smoky green flames.

70 GRANDPA
When the chalice is filled to the
point that it runneth over, the
Djinn will be released.

71 JAKE
How do you get it back in?

72 GRANDPA
I'm afraid you don't.
Unfortunately, the incantation to
recapture the creature has been
lost for a century.

73 FU DOG
And that Professor Nutwood knows
about this Chalice?

74 JAKE
I bet he was the one who tried to
steal it last night! He could
barely stay awake in class today.

Grandpa turns to Jake sternly.

75 GRANDPA

Jake, you must get that chalice before Professor Rotwood does. The safety of the magical community depends on it.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL DERCETO'S OFFICE D DAY

The office is empty. Suddenly DRAGON JAKE appears in the window. He pries open the window and JUMPS in, quickly morphing back into HUMAN FORM before he lands in the office. He quickly begins opening desk drawers and cabinets.

76 JAKE

Okay. If I were an ancient magical chalice where would I--

Suddenly Jake hears approaching footsteps. He takes, frozen.

77 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (O.S.)

I just wanted to express my concern that the trophies, especially the talent show trophy, were safe from any further vandal attempts in the um... where was it you hid it again?

WIDEN - as Professor Rotwood (carrying a cup of coffee) and Principal Derceto enter. Jake is nowhere to be seen.

78 PRINCIPAL DERCETO

Professor Rotwood, I've never seen you take such interest in our talent show before.

WIDEN FURTHER - to include the CEILING where Jake now in his DRAGON FORM, clings to the ceiling by his claws, terrified.

79 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD

Well, frankly, Principal Derceto, I feel that certain students here have talents that they're hiding.

ON JAKE - as his claws begin to shake. A bead of sweat forms

on the tip of his dragon nose.

80 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Talents that should be exposed to
the whole world.

As a BEAD OF SWEAT falls from Jake's nose...

Principal Derceto leans towards Rotwood. As Rotwood leans away, the sweat into his coffee cup, unnoticed.

81 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
Rest assured, Professor, the trophy
is safe. The next and only person
to get their hands on it will be
the winner of the talent show.

ON JAKE - as he winces.

82 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
Now if you'll excuse me?

Professor Rotwood exits the office, drinking the coffee.

83 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
(re: the coffee)
Hmmm. Fresh roasted.

JAKE struggles to hang onto the ceiling as Principal Derceto rolls her wheelchair towards the desk.

ON JAKE - as he hangs on with all his might, a FLY lands on his nose. He flinches, winces, and tries to shake the fly off. Finally he SNORTS a quiet BURST OF NOSTRIL FIRE at the fly, singeing it.

ON PRINCIPAL DERCETO - as a crispy charred fly lands right in her paper work. She looks up at see JAKE - now in his human form, leaning casually against her open office door.

84 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
Mr. Long. I didn't hear you come
in. Can I help you?

85 JAKE
Uh... yeah... I was just... looking
for um... the beat. Oh, here it
is...

Jake starts and backs his way out of the
office. Principal Derceto shrugs and returns to her work.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake sits in front of Grandpa and Fu Dog, as they make tea.

86 GRANDPA
Then you know what you have to do.
You must enter the talent show and
win that Chalice.

87 JAKE
No way, Gramps. I already told
Spud I'd help him win. I can't
enter against my best friend.

88 FU DOG
Kid, if Professor Nutwood gets a
hold of that chalice he'll expose
magical creatures to the world...
science wants answers... next thing
you know, boom, Eunice the Unicorn
is getting sliced up in a lab.

As Grandpa pours himself a cup of tea, the steam from the tea
rises to form the image of the American Dragon.

89 GRANDPA
You must enter that talent show and
you must win it. It is your duty
as the American Dragon.

90 JAKE
Aw, man.

A sulky Jake bats at the steam image causing it to dissipate.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S OFFICE - DAY

Professor Rotwood sits in his office. He quickly flips through test papers, stamping BIG RED F'S on each one with a rubber F STAMP. A KNOCK on his door reveals BRAD, standing awkwardly in the doorway.

91 BRAD
Knock, knock...

92 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Who's there? (then) Well, what's the punchline? You can't just say knock-knock and not have a punchline. We really have to work on your delivery.

93 BRAD
(confused as heck)
I just... you told me to come by. I can come back if...

94 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
No. I asked you here to offer you an extra credit opportunity. Perhaps a way to reinstate your status on the football team. Sit, sit.

Brad takes a seat in the office.

Professor Rotwood smiles and pulls out a file.

95 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
I've noticed from your transcripts that you seem to be quite the piano prodigy. You've taken piano lessons for the last eleven years, yes?

96 BRAD
Twelve actually.

97 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD

Hmm. What do you say we continue
this conversation at the talent
show rehearsal?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - TALENT SHOW REHEARSAL
ON STAGE - A BOY in a HILLBILLY looking overalls and straw
hat stands on stage.

98 HOG CALLER

(dramatic haiku)

Dusk comes quickly now./ The suns
sets on the hay field. / The hogs
will come home.

He his throat dramatically, and with a flourish,
raises his hand to cup his mouth then BURSTS FORTH WITH:

99 HOG CALLER

Sooooooo-ey! Sooooo-ey! Soey!
Soey! Piggy-piggy-piggy-
pigggeeeey!

100 SPUD (O.S.)

Oh, the competition is gonna be fi
erce.

PAN TO TRIXIE and SPUD watching this from the wings.

SPUD, wearing a MAGICIAN'S CAPE and TOP HAT thrusts a balled
up SILVER SEQUINED DRESS at Trixie.

101 SPUD

Here. Put this on.

Trixie holds it up to herself, confused.

102 TRIXIE

Does my bootie look like a disco
ball to you?

Jake enters frame, carrying a FU DOG SIZED BLACK CARRYING
CASE, with a handle on the top, and AIRHOLES on both sides.

103 JAKE

Hey guys, what's up?

104 TRIXIE

Jake, where have you been? Tell Spud that lovely assistants can be just as lovely in jeans and t shirts. I don't see him trying to cram you into a sequined dress.

105 SPUD

Well, actually...

Spud pulls a second dress out of his bag, but Jake cuts him off.

106 JAKE

Well, uh... about that, I kinda sorta gotta back out of the Spud the-Spudnificant act.

A nervous Jake fakes an optimistic smile.

107 JAKE

I'm...uh... entering the talent show too.

Trixie and Spud take at Jake in shock.

108 TRIXIE

I'm sorry, it sounded like you said you were entering the talent show, but that's impossible, 'cause if you take that trophy away from Spud, you'd be crushing his one and only dream.

109 SPUD

Now, Trixie. I'm sure Jake has a very good explanation as to why he's stabbing his best friend in the back. Right, Jake?

110 JAKE

Right. Yeah. I do. (then) I mean... I would, if I did, but... I guess I don't so...

Trixie and Spud exchange a glance. A beat, then...

111 TRIXIE

C'mon, Spud. Let's go check out the REAL competition.

Trixie and Spud link arms and walk over to the side of the

stage. Jake SIGHS as they walk away.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - (MONTAGE)

ANGLE ON THE STAGE - A BOY stands on stage with a TRIANGLE. He it a few polite times then goes Geoffrey Rush and RAPIDLY fires out an near impossible rendition of FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLEBEE entirely with on the triangle.

WIPE TO:

ANGLE ON THE
STAGE:

A GIRL (ORIGAMI GIRL), surrounded by piles and piles of ORIGAMI SWANS rapidly folds swan after swan.

112 ORIGAMI GIRL
(rapid fire)
Fifty swans. Fifty one. Fifty two.
Fifty three. Fifty four. Fifty
five. Fifty Six. Fifty Seven.

WIPE TO:

ANGLE ON THE
STAGE:

JAKE - walks onto stage carrying his carrying case.

Jake opens his case and pulls out FU DOG, who wears a PIRATE HAT and an EYE PATCH. FU DOG smiles stiffly, as if he were a ventriloquist dummy. Jake sits Fu on his lap and they begin their act:

113 FU DOG
Hey, what do you call a pirate ship
in Soho?

114 JAKE
I don't know, Captain HarrrrHarr,
what?

115 FU DOG
Yo-ho! Where do pirates go for
picnics? Central Parrrrrrrrrk.

116 JAKE
What don't they serve escargot in
Davy Jones' locker?

Jake reaches down out of frame and pulls up a glass of water.
He quickly drinks from it as FU DOG goes on.

117 FU DOG
'Cause Deadmen sell no snails! Ba
dum-bum!

ANGLE ON THE WINGS - Spud and Trixie exchange a worried
glance.

118 SPUD
Dude. He's really good.

PAN TO BRAD and PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - as Professor Rotwood
shoots Brad a withering look.

119 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
I trust you'll be better.

Professor Rotwood shoves Brad out to the stage.

ON STAGE - Brad SNEERS at Jake as they trade places.

Brad crosses to a PIANO on stage.

ANGLE IN THE
WINGS:

JAKE AND FU DOG approach Professor Rotwood in the wings.

120 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Admirable attempt, Mr. Long. But
I'm afraid you'll never beat my
young piano prodigy with that mangy
puppet.

IN THE BG, Brad stretches, cracks his fingers, and
dramatically prepares for his rehearsal.

FU DOG - looks Professor Rotwood up and down.

121 FU DOG
Who you calling mangy there, Molly
Mc-Hairpiece?

122 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
I beg your pardon?

Jake takes, but has no choice but to play along with Fu's act. In the BG, Brad touches his toes, stretches his arms, etc.

123 JAKE
Heh. Heh. Take it easy there,
Captain HarrHarr...

124 FU DOG
Seriously, you might want to call
an exterminator for that rat's nest
you call hair.

Jake, still smiling, shoves FU DOG into his carrying case.

125 FU DOG
(muffling out)
I'd like to introduce you to a new
concept -it's called a comb!

Jake looks up at Rotwood.

126 JAKE
What can I say? He's got a mind of
his own.

127 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Hilarious. You'll be laughing all
the way to last place. Now if
you'll excuse me, I have a
beautiful concerto to listen to.

ON STAGE - Brad finishes CRACKING his neck, stretches his fingers one final time and sits at the piano to play...
...the most poorly played, out of rhythm rendition of
that anyone's ever heard.

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - SEETHES. Jake watches him suspiciously.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Brad walks home. A CAR SQUEALS, up on the curb, cutting him

off.

A FRAZZLED LOOKING Professor Rotwood charges out of the car.

128 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Twelve years? Twelve years of
piano lessons?

129 BRAD
Hey I said I took'em I didn't say I
was any good.

130 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
We had a deal. Unless you get me
that trophy, you will fail my class
and be removed from the football
team! Luckily, you have plenty of
other things going for you. Things
like... Well... (getting an idea)
Oh, there's the--- (then) no.
(then getting another idea) I know
you're excellent at... (then) no...

131 BRAD
Hey. Don't sweat it. You'll get
your trophy. I may not play piano
good, but the Bradster has other
talents.

132 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Like addressing yourself in the
third person?

133 BRAD
Like eliminating the competition.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake and Fu Dog sit on a stool in the shop, practicing.

134 FU DOG
Greenwich Pillage. Get it?
Pillage? Come on, can we put it in
the act?

135 JAKE
Yeah, whatever.

136 FU DOG
Kid! Come on! You gotta get into
this.

(MORE)

136 FU DOG (CONT'D)
Your timing was totally off on the
Empaaarrrggghh State Building bit.

137 TRIXIE (O.S.)
Yo, that puppet is messed up. It's
just... so real.

REVEAL TRIXIE standing at the doorway of the shop. Fu Dog
freezes up.

Trixie walks up and picks him up. Fu Dog eyes Jake, worried.

138 TRIXIE
Where do you put your hand up this
thing anyway-

Jake quickly grabs Fu Dog from Trixie, setting him on the
counter behind them.

139 JAKE
Uh... what's up Trixie?

140 TRIXIE
I came to ask you the same thing.
(then) Spud is really bummed, Jake.
His big old Spud heart is breaking.

141 JAKE
Trixie, I just... I have to do
this.

142 TRIXIE
I'm not trying to hear that, Jake.
You and I both know you can beat
Spud. Isn't that enough? I'm
asking you to drop out. As a
friend.

Jake considers, torn. But finally...

143 JAKE
I can't.

144 TRIXIE
Well... You gotta do what you gotta
do. I just hope you know what
you're doing.

Trixie exits.

Jake, frustrated and furious, lashes out, KICKING OVER a

stack of boxes in the corner.

145 GRANDPA (O.S.)
A pot which boils over every day is
soon empty.

Jake looks up to see Grandpa standing calmly in the back doorway. He SIGHS and sits down at the desk. Grandpa sits next to him.

146 JAKE
I'm sorry, Gramps, it's just...
this is so messed up.

147 GRANDPA
I'm sorry, too young one... But as
the American Dragon you will be
faced with many difficult
decisions.

148 JAKE
So what am I supposed to do?

149 GRANDPA
I cannot answer that. We are each
faced with many roads along our
journey, and we cannot always chose
the one that's easiest to travel.
Sometimes, we must make sacrifices.
Why do you think Grandpa's only
friend is a 600-year-old-sharpei?

Fu Dog smiles and throws open his arms Jimmy Durante style.

150 FU DOG
What can I say, I'm great at
parties!

Jake as we SLOWLY DISSOLVE TO...

151 PRINCIPAL DERCETO (V.O.)
Welcome to the school talent show!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM ♦ DAY OF THE TALENT SHOW

ON THE JUDGES TABLE ♦ where Principal Derceto and a few other
JUDGES/TEACHERS sit ready to judge the talent show.

Taranushi's Chalice sits on the table, under the watchful eye of Principal Derceto.

152 PRINCIPAL DECERTO
First contestant: Obediah Mayfield
with his award-winning hog call.

ANGLE ON HOG CALLER boy standing center stage.

153 HOG CALLER
Dusk comes quickly now./ The suns
sets on the hay field. / The hogs
will come home.

He his throat dramatically, and with a flourish,
raises his hand to cup his mouth then BURSTS FORTH WITH:

154 HOG CALLER
Sooooooo-ey! Sooooo-ey! Soey!
Soey! Piggy-piggy-piggy-
pigggeeeey!

Suddenly A WILD HOG tears on the stage, attacking Hog Calling boy. The HOG throws the boy to the floor...

155 HOG CALLER
Ahhh! Pig attack! Get it off me!
Get it off me!

A beat, and the boy regains his feet and runs for his life,
the hog tight on his heels.

ON THE WINGS - Rotwood and Brad stand side by side. Brad
grins evily, holding a rope in his hand.

156 BRAD
I dated a girl who's a Hog Farmer.

Brad holds up his hand for Rotwood to high five.

157 BRAD
Up high, Proff!

Rotwood yanks Brad's hand down angrily.

WIPE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Origami girl sits on the stage, a neat stack of colored paper on her lap.

158 ORIGAMI GIRL
Ahem. One swan...

She quickly attempts to fold a swan, but the paper gets stuck to her hand. She reaches for another paper.... and another... before long her hands are a mass of sticky colored paper.

159 ORIGAMI GIRL
(losing it)
One swan... one swan... ONE... SWAN
!!!

She wipes her brow in frustration, causing colored paper to stick to her face.

IN the BG HOG CALLER runs by, still chased by the angry hog.

WIPE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

TRIANGLE BOY WALKS OUT ON STAGE. He sets down his triangle case on a table in front of him.

He opens the triangle case to reveal -
HIS TRIANGLE a bent crumpled mess.

160 TRIANGLE BOY
The triangle boy grabs his hair and runs off stage...

ANGLE ON THE WINGS -

As triangle boy runs past Brad and Rotwood.

161 TRIANGLE BOY
The music is dead! The music is dead! (ALT: WHY!?! WHY!?!)

162 BRAD

Now, all I have to do is get rid of
Jake and it's in the bag.

163 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD

What about this Spud-the
Spudnificent?

164 BRAD

You mean Spud-the-dud? I don't
think he'll be a problem.

Brad points...

SWISH PAN to SPUD and TRIXIE dressed in their respective costumes. Spud reaches into his hat and pulls out... nothing. He turns the hat inside out confused.

165 SPUD

Uh... anyone see a little white
rabbit?

166 TRIXIE

Yo, that's like the third bunny
you've lost today.

Trixie gets down on her hands and knees looking around.

167 TRIXIE

I swear, the things I do for that
boy...

As Trixie crawls off, Brad sidles up besides Spud.

168 BRAD

Listen. It's just you me and
puppet boy left in the show. So
um... whadaya say we get rid of
Jake and make it a fair contest?

Spud takes, appalled.

169 SPUD

No way, Jake's my bud.

170 BRAD

Fine. Good luck with your "talent"
magic-boy.

Brad turns on his heels and exits.

A beat, as the bunny crawls up on top of an oblivious Spud's

head.

171 SPUD
Hey! That's magic-man to you!

ANGLE ON JAKE and FU DOG, in the wings, eyeing the trophy. Fu Dog wears a pirate hat and an eye patch.

172 FU DOG
Listen, kid! I know you're bummed about this, but... (then suddenly) Avast, matey! Trouble off the starboard bow.

WIDEN - to REVEAL Brad approaching.

173 BRAD
Hey, um... Principal Derceto wants us to wait upstairs 'til our turn.

174 JAKE
Why?

175 BRAD
Dude?! If I could read the principal's mind, I'd be... like a mind reader or something. You coming or not?

Jake shrugs, and follows Brad upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS/ BATHROOM D SAME

As Jake follows Brad upstairs, Jake begins to grow suspicious...

There's nothing there but some storage boxes and an old bathroom.

176 JAKE
Are you sure this is where-

Suddenly, Brad rips FU DOG out of Jake's hand and tosses him (football pass style) through the open door of the bathroom.

177 BRAD
Go deep for your little puppet, sucker!

Jake dives after Fu Dog...

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jake dives into the bathroom, trying to catch Fu Dog... Jake misses, and Fu Dog SPLASHES into the open toilet. Brad peeks his head in the bathroom door.

178 PRINCIPAL DERCETO (O.S.)
Please welcome our next contestant,
Brad Morton.

179 BRAD
There's my cue. Too bad you'll miss yours, loser!

Brad SLAMS the door on Jake. We hear a LOCK click into place.

Jake SCOFFS.

180 JAKE
Yeah, like a locked door can keep in the American Dragon. Let's get outa here, Fu...

181 FU DOG
Uh, minor problem, kid...

Jake turns around to see that Fu Dog's foot is stuck in the toilet. In the DISTANCE, we hear Brad's horrible rendition of CHOPSTICKS start to play.

182 JAKE
Aw, Fu... gross.

183 FU DOG
Oh, yeah, like I planned to make my paw one with the plumbing. Get me outa here, will ya?

Jake grabs a hold of Fu Dog from under his arms and tugs... He falls back, an arm-load of Fu Dog's fur stretched out, still in his arms. Fu's fur is pulled tight around his eyes, causing them to bug out.

184 FU DOG
Easy kid! You trying to skin me?!?

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

BRAD - on stage finishes his rendition of and bows.

Principal Derceto exchanges uncomfortable glances with the other judges.

185 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
Alright. Thank you for that interesting piece... Next contestant: Spud-the-Spudnificent.

ON SPUD - backstage, the rabbit still on his head.

186 SPUD
Trixie! We can't go on yet! I can't find...

Trixie walks up, takes the rabbit off Spud's head and puts it in his arms.

187 SPUD
My rabbit! Thanks!

As Spud rolls his table of props (which is covered with a black table cloth) on stage we...

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM D SAME

With a final tug Jake YANKS Fu Dog free of the toilet.

188 JAKE
Alright. Time to unlock this door, Dragon style. Dragon up!

Jake morphs into full dragon, but in doing so, his TAIL JUTS out, knocking the toilet off its base.

The toilet flies up into the air, causing a fountain of water

to spring up into the bathroom stall. The toilet comes crashing down and lands on Jake's shoulders, knocking him flat onto the ground.

Fu Dog runs over to him.

189 FU DOG
Whoa. Dragon down!

As the water continues to sprout out of the open hole where the toilet once was, CAMERA pans down through the floor to...

INT. AUDITORIUM ♫ SAME

...the judges' table. As water drips ominously through the ceiling into the chalice...

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Fu Dog slaps Jake awake.

190 FU DOG
Great, some sidekick I am. Lettin' the American Dragon get bested by a toilet. Come on, kid!

Finally, Jake comes to...

191 JAKE
Wha? (then realizing) We gotta get outa here!

192 FU DOG
Yeah, tell me something I don't know...

Jake grabs FU DOG, bursts through the bathroom door.

INT. STAIRWELL - SAME

As Jake runs downstairs he morphs into his human form.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

Jake, Fu Dog tucked under his arm, runs towards the judges table.

193 JAKE
Jake Long. Did I miss my turn?

Jake arrives at the judges table just in time to see the chalice runneth over from the drips in the ceiling.

194 JAKE
No!

The CHALICE starts to SPARK and SHAKE...

Jake quickly KICKS the chalice...

THE CHALICE - flies towards stage, landing right in SPUD's upsidedown TOP HAT. Spud waves his wand towards his top hat...

195 SPUD
Observe, as Spud-The-Spudnificent pulls a rabbit out of his hat.

A DJINN emerges in a cloud of smoke and green-ish fiery sparks.

Spud and Trixie take, stunned.

Jake and Fu Dog exchange a glance, horrified as we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. AUDITORIUM - TALENT SHOW - SAME

The Djinn thrashes about on stage, throwing fire balls with its every gesture.

Trixie and Spud take at each other in shock.

196 TRIXIE
What the heck kinda rabbit is that?

197 SPUD
(proud of himself)
The magic kind!

Spud smiles and waves his wand dramatically at the Djinn.

198 SPUD
Behold the magic of Spud-The
Spudnificent!

THE AUDIENCE impressed and begins

Behind them the DJINN, a mass of green flames, rips out a light fixture, smashing it to the ground with a DISPLAY OF SPARKS. The audience CHEERS again.

Spud continues to make bold motions with his wand as the Djinn charges at Trixie.

IN THE WINGS - Jake quickly goes FULL DRAGON...

199 JAKE
Dragon up...

..and dives at the Djinn.

ON STAGE - The Djinn and Jake throw impressive colorful balls of fire at each other.

Spud waves his wand at them, as he and Trixie take turns bowing and curtseying between explosions.

THE AUDIENCE

200 AUDIENCE MEMBERS
 Now that's good magic! / You know,
 I saw the same act in Vegas.

The guy next to her elbows her, shocked beyond belief.

ANGLE ON THE JUDGES TABLE - as Professor Rotwood runs up to Principal Derceto.

201 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
 Magical creatures! There are
 magical creatures on stage!

202 PRINCIPAL DECERTO
 Well, Professor Rotwood, it is a
 magic show.

203 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
 No! Not magic magical creatures.
 Real ones! Living, breathing -
 fire breathing for that matter!!!

204 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
 Don't be absurd. It's all done
 with slight of hand,
 pyrotechnics...

205 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
 Pyrotechnics my eye! It's real, I
 tell you, and I'll prove it-

As Professor Rotwood tears towards the stage, Jake's and the Djinn's FIRE singes a rope, causing a SANDBAG to fall on his back, knocking him to the ground.

ON STAGE - JAKE AND THE DJINN wrestle across the stage in a fanfare of sparks and smoke. The audience and joyfully.

THE DJINN kicks Jake off of him, sending him out towards the audience. Jake flaps his wings, "breaking" just before he crashes into the thrilled audience.

Jake charges towards the Djinn, but the Djinn hits Jake with

a mighty blow the send him into the wings.

IN THE WINGS - Jake CRASHES into FU DOG, and both CRASH into a PROP WALL, shattering it. Jake morphs back into his human form on impact.

The DJINN gathers a giant green flame and aims it directly at SPUD. SPUD, still into his magic act, waves his wand at it dramatically.

206 SPUD
Abigo -ere -egi -actum!

IN A DRAMATIC POOF OF SMOKE the Djinn is sucked back into the chalice (which is still in Spud's hat.) Spud takes in disbelief.

207 SPUD
Awesome!

The audience ROARS with approval. Trixie and Spud bow.

IN THE WINGS - Jake catches his breath, shocked.

208 JAKE
Woah. He did it!

THE JUDGES stand - cheering.

SPUD is absolutely GLOWING with happiness.

209 SPUD
Dude! I knew if I practiced magic long enough it would finally kick in one day!

ON THE JUDGES TABLE, as they peruse their list.

210 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
Alright... and now our last contestant... Jake Long?

ON JAKE and FU DOG in the wings.

211 FU DOG
Okay, kid, let's go win us a chalice.

Jake... looks at Spud, still basking in the . Spud takes a final bow, puts on his hat, and begins rolling his prop cart off the stage.

JAKE - picks up Fu Dog and is about to step out on stage. As Spud passes him, rolling off his table of props, he WHISPERS:

212 SPUD
Good luck out there. And watch your back. Brad was talking about getting rid of you. I think he may be like, evil or something.

Jake watches Spud roll his cart away, shocked.

FU DOG elbows Jake.

213 FU DOG
Come on, kid. What're you waiting for?

Jake watches Spud pack up his stuff in the wings.

214 JAKE
Sorry, Fu. I gotta do what I gotta do.

ANGLE ON THE STAGE - as Jake steps out from the wings.

215 JAKE
I'd like to withdraw myself from the competition.

The judges exchange a confused glance, shrugging.

Trixie and Spud take in shock.

Principal Derceto shrugs and wheels herself out on stage.

216 PRINCIPAL DERCETO
In that case... the winner of the talent show is Spud-the Spudnificent!

Spud runs on stage. He takes off his hat to wave it to the audience, and the TROPHY falls out of it landing right on Principal Derceto's lap. Derceto hands the trophy to Spud happily.

The audience again. Spud waves the trophy in the air.

217 SPUD
This one's for you, Super Gramps!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Jake and FU DOG walk home, when...

218 SPUD (O.S.)
Yo, Jake, wait up!

Fu Dog quickly JUMPS into Jake's arm, posing as the puppet again.

219 SPUD
I just... wanted to thank you for you know... everything.

220 JAKE
Nah. I shoulda never entered the talent show in the first place. No one can beat Spud the Spudnificent!

221 TRIXIE
Personally, I'm glad you ditched the ventriloquist act. That puppet gives me the creeps. The way its eyes follow you around...

222 FU DOG
What can I say? I'm full of surprises, sister.

Trixie's eyes dart back and forth between Jake and Fu Dog suspiciously.

223 TRIXIE
Seriously. Creepy.

Spud hands Jake the Chalice.

224 SPUD
Here, Dude. I know you dropped out 'cause of me. I want you to have this.

Jake and Spud share a smile.

225 JAKE
You sure?

226 SPUD
Totally.

Spud turns to leave, Trixie turns back around to address Jake.

227 TRIXIE
I'm not jokin' Jake. Give that ratty old thing to charity.

Trixie turns to walk away, Fu Dog paws her playfully kicks her in the pants. She turns back around to see Fu Dog frozen.

228 JAKE
(innocent)
What?

Trixie shrugs and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake and Fu Dog address Grandpa animatedly.

229 FU DOG
Mission accomplished! You shoulda seen Jake! Fighting the Djinn, the crowds roaring...

230 GRANDPA
Well done, young one.

231 JAKE
Look, I know what you're gonna say.
I totally picked the wrong road and-

Grandpa places a kind hand on Jake's shoulder.

232 GRANDPA
You may have picked the wrong road -
for the American Dragon.
(MORE)

232 GRANDPA (CONT'D)
But you picked the right road - for
a friend. Now, let's put
Taranushi's Chalice somewhere safe.

Fu Dog and Jake both turn to each other, eyes wide.

233 JAKE/FU DOG
I thought you had it.

234 JAKE
You had it when we left school.

235 FU DOG
You had it on the subway.

Suddenly Fu Dog and Jake's eyes widen.

236 JAKE/FU DOG
The subway!

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY - SAME

A large woman shifts in her seat uncomfortably, then stands to exit the subway.

As she turns her backside towards CAMERA, we see the flattened chalice stuck to the back of her skirt....

237 NARRATOR (V.O.)
Taranushi's Chalice. For thousands of years man and magical beast alike have fought to posses it...

FADE OUT:

THE END